



July 2, 2014

**Employment First Website**

It's been more than a year since Governor Haslam signed Executive Order No. 28, which established the Tennessee *Employment First* initiative to expand community employment opportunities for Tennesseans with disabilities.

Thanks to the tremendous work of our staff, state partners, advocates and provider agencies, we have made incredible progress in the first year. We will continue to aggressively pursue community-based, integrated employment for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In an effort to better communicate our efforts with our stakeholders, DIDD has redesigned its *Employment First* website. The new site highlights the successes made by our partner agencies, provides a calendar of employment-related events, subject matter expert biographies and employment resources.

We would encourage everyone to visit the site and watch a video about two of our *Employment First* pioneers supported through SRVS! Feedback is always appreciated and we've included a link on the site where you can share your thoughts.

You can find the new *Employment First* website here: <http://www.tn.gov/didd/employment-1st/index.shtml>

~Debbie